

Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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Commissioner's Corner IT'S LEGISLATIVE CRUNCH TIME

David Johnson, Chair

The Legislature is off and running, so all of us who are interested in Montana libraries need to keep abreast of the happenings in Helena to be sure that our legislators receive our thoughts on the pending bills that affect our library system. The recurrent theme is a tight budget, so we need to work together to be sure that there is adequate funding for our necessary services.

The State Library Commission's priority items include additional two-year funding of \$400,000 for the Infotrac magazine database; the hearing on the Montana State Library's budget (which includes the database) was set for Monday, January 15th. We are also supportive of HB130, a library federation housekeeping bill; SB149, which establishes library districts; and, more general fund support for NRIS (Natural Resource Information System).

Lois Fitzpatrick will keep us up to date on Wired Montana, and you can also search the legislative records through the legislative link that Bruce Newell has established on the MLN Montanaiana page: <http://montanalibraries.org/montanaiana.htm>.

As you receive alerts throughout the session, please take a moment to dash off a letter, e-mail or phone call to your legislators so that they know there is a big community of library supporters out there!

Calendar

For more information on these and other Montana Library events, visit our web calendar: <http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

February 14 — Montana State Library Commission meeting, Helena in the MSL Conference Room. Contact: Karen Strege, kstrege@state.mt.us

February 23-24 — Offline 2001, Carroll College, in Helena. Contact: - Brenda Grasmick (444-1984, bgrasmick@state.mt.us)

Montana Library Day

About 175 library supporters and legislators met at the state library on Thursday, January 11, to enjoy each other's company and a chuck wagon dinner. Displays of MSL and other library's services were set up in the building, enabling legislators to try new information resources. Throughout this newsletter you will find some of our favorite pictures from that night. Thanks to the Nature Conservancy, the Montana Association of the Blind, and the Montana Library Association for sponsoring this event.

Legislators enjoying the chuck wagon supper.



Representative Dick Haines, Missoula, and his wife listen as Christie Briggs explains Montana Talking Book Library services.

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2001

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend MSL's second Summer Institute. This year's SI is scheduled for the week of June 10, and will be held on the campus of Montana Tech in beautiful Butte. The Institute will once again offer a unique weeklong learning and networking opportunity to 50 public library directors and staff from around the state. The training offered this June will feature different topics and presenters than were in Billings last year, but the themes of leadership and advocacy will be continued. Topics being planned for the Butte institute include leadership skills, creating web pages, advanced searching on InfoTrac, grant writing, and services for young adults.

The Summer Institute is funded with Library Services and Technology Act grant funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Montana State Library Commission. Grant money is used to pay all training expenses, including presenters and classrooms, and expenses for the librarians to stay in the dorm and eat at the campus Student Union for the week. Transportation costs for librarians to attend the Institute are not covered by the grant.

Applications to attend the Summer Institute will be available in March. Please make your plans now to attend. We are very excited about the presenters and sessions as well as the facilities we've reserved at Montana Tech. It will be a great week in Butte!

2001 MONTANAIANA REGRANT PROGRAM

Applications will soon be available for the second round of the Montanaiana Regrant Program (MRP) projects. MRP, as part of the Montana Library Network (MLN) project funded by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds, will provide a total of \$20,000 to make special Montana resources/materials available through MLN.

In 2000, four projects were selected for funding to make digitally available unique Montana photographs, artwork, and a "mug" book of information on Montanans from the past.

MRP applications will be accepted from any library listed in the current Montana Library Directory. The projects selected for funding (\$5,000 maximum per award) will be chosen based on the importance of the Montana materials described in the project, and the ability of the proposed project to meet MLN requirements and standards for digital materials. Details about these requirements will be included in the application guidelines and form. This year, training and MLN staff will provide technical advice and information as grant proposals are being prepared. A March pre-grant meeting is being planned in Helena to help interested applicants learn more about MRP and the application requirements. The deadline for applications will be in May, and the Montanaiana Regrant Program projects will be selected and announced in early June.

Contact Bruce Newell, MLN Director, at 406-444-9816 or bnewell@state.mt.us.



Senator Mack Cole, Hysham, learns about the Natural Resource Information System.

Commission Meeting Dates for 2001

February 14 - MSL Conference Room - Helena

April 11 - MSL Conference Room - Helena

June 20 - MSL Conference Room - Helena

August 9 - Lincoln County Library - Libby

October 10 - MSL Conference Room - Helena

December 12 - Montana State Library Conference Room - Helena

The State Library makes reasonable accommodation for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in meetings. Persons needing an accommodation must notify the State Library at least 3 working days before a meeting. Call 444-3384, TDD 444-3005.

NEW TRUSTEE HANDBOOK COMING THIS SPRING

MSL is excited to announce that a new handbook for Montana public library trustees will be available in early spring. The Library Development Department, in conjunction with TECO Management Group, has been working on the new handbook for the last six months. This new publication will replace the *Montana Public Library Trustee Manual*, written and distributed to trustees in 1993, which is now out-of-print. "Trustees and library directors need information to guide them with the financial, legal, personnel, and policy decisions that Boards make for public libraries," says Karen Strege, State Librarian. "We will provide this information in a concise and easy-to-use format. This new handbook will be immensely helpful."

MSL would like to thank the Trustee Handbook Review Committee made up of four public library trustees (current and former): Joan Bishop (Helena), Steve Gannon (Big Sandy), Eleanor Gray (Miles



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction And State Librarian Karen Strege at the Library Day Reception.

City), and Steve Owens (Deer Lodge); and three public library directors: Elizabeth Kearney (West Yellowstone), Gloria Langstaff (Hamilton), and Sheila Lee (Plentywood). Committee members volunteered their time to read the first draft of the new handbook, and make recommendations and suggestions for improvements. The Committee's input and perspective were invaluable in working toward the final handbook.

NatureServe Announced

The Montana Natural Heritage Program, a part of the Natural Resource Information System [NRIS] provides a reliable, comprehensive clearinghouse for information on Montana's biodiversity. Since its inception The Heritage Program has answered thousands of questions from federal, state and local government, industry, private organizations and citizens.

As a member of the Natural Heritage Network we are pleased to announce **NatureServe** (www.natureserve.org), a source for authoritative conservation information on more than 50,000 plants, animals, and ecological communities of the United States and Canada.

NatureServe provides in-depth information on rare and endangered species, but includes common plants and animals too. NatureServe is a product of the Association for Biodiversity Information (www.abi.org) in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Network.

A screenshot of the NatureServe website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Address http://www.natureserve.org/". Below this is a large blue banner with the "NatureServe" logo and the tagline "an online encyclopedia of life". To the left of the banner is a vertical sidebar with a search bar and several buttons: "Search For:", "Plants & Animals", "Ecological Communities", "About the Data", "About Us", "Contact Us", and "Help". To the right of the banner is a text box that reads: "Welcome to NatureServe, a source for authoritative conservation information on more than 50,000 plants, animals, and ecological communities of the United States and Canada. NatureServe provides in-depth information on rare and endangered species, but includes common plants and animals too. NatureServe is a product of the Association for Biodiversity Information in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Network." At the bottom right of the screenshot is a photograph of a butterfly.

You can find the NatureServe webpage at: <http://www.natureserve.org/>.



Legislators and others enjoying the chuck wagon dinner amidst the stacks.

MLN Hires New Staff Member

Early in December, the Montana Library Network hired Mike Price, former manager of ComputerLand of Helena, to run the information technology part of the MLN. Mike brings a wealth of computer and people skills with him, and has already done a great deal to improve the MLN Gateway.

Mike works with Bruce Newell, who has welcomed Mike's arrival with a heartfelt, "Whew!" And, "Boy, did we luck out!" Mike can be reached at (406) 444-5377, or miprice@state.mt.us.

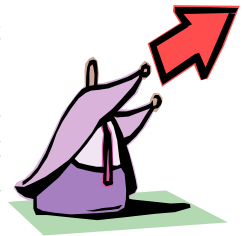
MLN Eyes Training Options

The Montana Library Network is conducting a training survey [see the next page for a hard copy of the survey or complete it online at: <http://montanalibraries.org/trainingsurvey.htm>].

Completed survey forms are due no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 2. The survey takes about two minutes to complete online; or you can fill out the hardcopy on the next page and mail or fax it to:

Training Survey, Diane Gunderson, Data Coordinator, Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800
(406) 444-5349 Fax (406) 444-5612
E-Mail: dgunderson@state.mt.us

This survey is distributed solely to find out what you want. We would be hard pressed to schedule even half the courses listed, but we would like to hear what you are interested in, rather than just randomly schedule courses. Please let us know what you think (and add any missing training in which you would like to participate). Thanks!



Montana Library Directory Moves Online February 1!

Mike Price, MLN's new self described "information technology guy," is bringing the Montana Library Directory to the World Wide Web in two phases:

- By February 1, 2001 librarians will be able to search the 2000 Montana Library Directory for basic information about Montana's libraries on the Web.
- By March 16, 2001 it will be possible for Montana libraries to update their library's information online.

Paper forms will be available for libraries unable to update their library's directory information online. If you need a paper form of the directory information, please contact Diane Gunderson as soon as possible. The Directory will subsequently 'live' online, and libraries will be encouraged to update their library's records as changes occur. This will save an enormous amount of paper work for Montana libraries, and make current directory information about Montana libraries available for librarians and library users. A limited number of copies of the directory will be printed for distribution.

We will use the Wired-MT e-mail list to keep you up to date with the project's progress (to subscribe, see: <http://www.mtlib.org/wired.html>). Contact: Diane Gunderson, dgunderson@state.mt.us, 1-800-338-5087, 406-444-5349.

MLN Training Options Survey

Name _____ E-mail _____

Library name _____ Library town _____

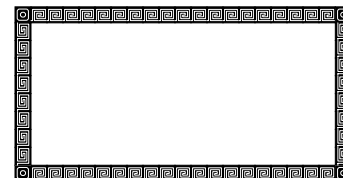
Workshop Title	Begin- ning	Inter- mediate	Ad- vanced	I would attend	Max I'd pay	Distance I'd travel	I'd teach
Accounting, Library							
Adult Services							
Book Repair							
Cataloging							
Children's Service							
Computer maintenance							
Computer security							
Data Communications							
Digital Library, Practice (req. DLTheory)							
Digital Library, Theory							
InfoTrac Searching							
Interlibrary Loan Services							
LaserCat							
Library Board Development							
Library Construction Planning							
Library Grant writing							
Library Law							
Library Public Relations, dressing for success							
MARC Authority (OCLC-Western instructor); Intro prereq							
MARC Bibliographic (OCLC-Western instructor) Intro prereq							
MARC Holdings (OCLC-Western instructor) Intro prereq							
MARC, Intro to (OCLC-Western instructor)							
Materials Selection, Electronic							
MLN Gateway & OCLC's WorldCat							
MS/Access							
MS/Excel							
MS/FrontPage							
MS/Windows							
MS/Word							
OCLC's CatExpress							
OCLC's Passport for Interlibrary Loan							
Personnel, Library							
Reference Services							
Summer Reading Program, 2001							
Web Searching							
Young Adult Services							
Other (specify)							
Other (specify)							
Other (specify)							
Other (specify)							
Other (specify)							

Please return the survey to: Training Survey, Diane Gunderson, Data Coordinator , Montana State Library, Voice (406) 444-5349 Fax (406) 444-5612, PO Box 201800, Helena MT 59620-1800

* Note, some courses will be half day, others full day or multiple days. Results of this survey will help us determine when, where, and how frequently to offer classes.



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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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Moriah Haley, Montana Talking
Book Library Readers' Advisor and
friend Percibal.

Spotlight: Moriah Haley, Montana Talking Book Library Readers' Advisor

Moriah Haley is a welcome addition to the Montana Talking Book Library staff. She moved to Helena from Colorado Springs, CO in 1994. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in German language and literature in 1986 from the University of Denver.

Moriah lived in Switzerland and Germany. She worked as a bilingual tour guide in Bertchesgaden, Germany. Moriah's duties included providing historical information about features such as Mozart's home, World War II historical sites, the Salt Mines of Bertchesgaden, Salzburg and the Sound of Music tour. Upon Moriah's return to the United States, she worked at the University of Denver's Penrose Library and at other jobs. Moriah has computer, public relations, customer service, cataloging and retail experiences. Moriah's interest in public service and her love of library services brought her to the Montana Talking Book Library.

Her personal interests include her three felines, Sebastian, Archimedes and Percibal (all about 9 years old), being an aerobics instructor and painting (currently using acrylics).